

New and Renewable Energy Raj Kumar Singh said in March.

Unless there is some technology breakthrough, demand for fossil fuels will continue to grow for decades. And Russia and China will take advantage of U.S. energy disarmament. Russian oil giant Rosneft warned last fall that retrenchment by U.S. and European companies would result in higher prices and shortages. "Someone will need to step in," Rosneft senior executive Didier Casimiro said.

In November Rosneft announced a \$170 billion oil and gas project in Russia's north, which it claims can supply the entire world's oil demand for a year. It says the project will become the world's largest liquefied natural gas producer by 2030. Russia is also laying down thousands of miles of oil and gas pipelines to supply Europe and Asia.

Vladimir Putin is gloating that Russia's Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany will soon be finished, as Mr. Biden has refused to sanction Russian companies running the project. But he didn't care about upsetting Canada when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline. Nor Alaskans when he suspended the ANWR leases. Mr. Biden wants to curtail North American energy development while he stands by as Russia uses its natural resources for strategic gain.

That includes coal, by the way. Russia is spending more than \$10 billion on railroad upgrades to boost its coal exports. According to a new report by the Global Energy Monitor, coal producers—in Australia, China, India, Russia and South Africa—are planning mining projects that would increase global output by 30%. China has 112 coal mines under construction. It is also developing shale.

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Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, here is how this excellent editorial begins:

The U.S. is barreling toward one of the greatest self-inflicted wounds in our country's history.

I could not agree more.

The editorial goes on to list the different actions that I just mentioned—restricting energy production in America, including in Alaska, with ANWR, restricting pipelines, encouraging defunding of the energy sector. It is not good for the country.

The editorial also notes that this will have no impact on global greenhouse gas emissions. None. None. It is virtue signaling at the expense of working families, working Americans, and our national security.

Right now, we are beginning to import more oil from Russia than we ever have. How does that make any sense? How does that help a working family in Alaska or Maryland or anywhere? It doesn't. It does one thing: It empowers countries like Russia and Putin and Saudi Arabia at the expense of the United States. This is a fact. Yet, every day you hear a new action. You read a new quote from someone in this administration focused on killing the energy sector of the United States. Again, as the Wall Street Journal just mentioned, this will be recognized in history as one of the greatest self-in-

flicted wounds, with no upside. No upside.

We have the highest environmental standards in the world in Alaska when we produce oil. Highest in the world. Russians have the lowest, and yet we are now preferring Russian oil over American oil.

Can anyone tell me how this makes sense? It doesn't.

Here is how the editorial concludes:

Progressives want to surrender one of America's [most] strategic economic advantages in the name of [so-called] saving the climate. But banishing fossil fuels in the [United States] won't eliminate carbon emissions, which will [just] be produced [elsewhere]. So will . . . jobs [and] economic growth and [the] geopolitical [advantage that comes with our energy dominance].

Let me conclude by saying this. As I mentioned, I agree with President Biden and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan. We need to address challenges, particularly with our adversaries like China and Russia, from positions of strength. Two of the most prominent positions of strength—the U.S. military and our energy dominance—right now are being undermined by this very administration.

They need to change course, and if they do, we will support their actions. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

#### COVID-19 VACCINES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise today to say thank you. I rise today to say thank you to President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken. They have both announced today, though it had been rumored for several days, that the United States of America is about to make available 500 million doses of the coronavirus vaccine to our friends and neighbors across the world. And I hope the President and the Secretary are willing to offer even more, if necessary.

We have learned a lot about the virus and the disease that it causes. I will mention three things. No. 1, we have learned that the virus came from China; No. 2, we have learned that the best vaccines for the virus came from the United States of America; and No. 3, we have learned that the pandemic is not over.

Yes, things are better in the United States. And we are so blessed in that regard, and I am so thankful. That is a combination of Americans receiving the vaccine; it is a combination of Americans being careful in their behavior. Our coronavirus rates are a combination of people who contracted the disease and therefore have the antibodies, and that is why our numbers are going down, and we are also thankful for that.

But that is not the situation in other parts of the world. If you go to South America, if you go to Central America, if you ask anyone—if you ask Sub-Saharan Africa about how things are going in terms of the pandemic, it is alive and well and raging. And our friends and neighbors need the help,

and I am grateful today that President Biden and Secretary of State Blinken are going to make that help available.

For a couple of reasons, it makes sense to show the world what U.S. leadership really means. No. 1, it is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. We developed a vaccine. We need to share it. That doesn't mean that we have to require pharmaceutical companies to share their patented and protected information. I think that is a real mistake. We can accomplish everything through licensing agreements. But we do need to share.

No. 2, this makes sense in terms of our national security. It is not the most important reason to do this but in terms of national security and the rest of our neighbors throughout the world understanding that the American people are generous and that we help other folks when they are down.

No. 3, it makes sense for the President and the Secretary to do this in terms of geopolitical terms. China is trying to do the same thing that we are going to do in terms of making vaccines available throughout the world. And I thank China for that, and I thank the Chinese people. The Chinese people are wonderful people. Their leadership, not so much.

The Chinese people—let me say it again—the people of China are wonderful. The leadership of the Communist Party of China is a bunch of pirates. But I am thankful they are willing to make vaccines available. The problem is, they are making their own vaccine available, which is inferior to the American vaccine, and, No. 2, in many cases, their vaccine diplomacy—"their" meaning, of course, the Chinese Communist Party's vaccine diplomacy—is tied to conditions.

Yes, says the Chinese Communist Party, we will share our vaccine with you if you will help us take over Taiwan. Yes, we will share our vaccine with you, say members of the Communist Party of China, if you will join with us in saying that the Communist Party of China is doing nothing wrong in hiding the origin of the coronavirus.

That is not what we are doing.

Our gift, as Americans, to the rest of the world is unconditional. It is firm. It is categorical. It is the moral thing to do. It is the smart thing to do, in terms of our own national security. We can't completely recover until the world recovers. And No. 3, it makes perfect sense, in my judgment, in explaining to the rest of the world the difference between communism and the free enterprise system and the hearts that lie behind both of those systems.

It is also, and I will close on this point—it is necessary. There are very few countries in the world—we are blessed to be one of them—that have the ability to manufacture, to store, and to distribute the vaccine. Yes, it is wonderful to talk about, well, we are going to help other countries with their—let's say, their manufacturing needs. We should do that, but we don't

have enough time. We just don't have enough time because in the developing world, when time is of the essence, they just don't have the ability that we have to manufacture a vaccine, which is only part of it; to store that vaccine, and these vaccines require very careful protocol in terms of storage; and No. 3, to distribute it. We can do all three, and President Biden, over the last several days, along with Secretary of State Blinken, said we are about to show the world what American leadership looks like. We are going to share our innovation and our vaccines with our world's neighbors, and there are no strings attached. And we are doing it because it is the right thing to do.

I think all Members of this Congress should join with the President and should join with the Secretary of State in this effort. If they need the resources, I think we should provide them, and let's all get back on our feet together as a world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I come to the floor today to give an update on what is happening on our southwest border. It seems a lot of the national media has stopped focusing on that area.

I talked to the people in Oklahoma and asked: What is going on on the southwest border? What has changed?

Interestingly enough, just 2 days ago, President Biden and his team released what is the current status of what they call the "border challenge." They talked about it, and here is the update. This comes from the White House itself, their update. They stated this: There is improved processing of unaccompanied children. The administration successfully reduced the number of unaccompanied children in Customs and Border Protection custody.

The second thing they list is that the administration has reduced the average amount of time children are in Customs and Border Protection facilities.

The third thing they list is that the administration has reduced the number of unaccompanied children in the care of Health and Human Services.

Then they move on and say that they removed barriers to unifying children with parents and sponsors in the United States. And they go through and give the details of how much better they are at unifying parents and children here in the United States.

Interestingly enough, when you read through this and just look at the language, you think, gosh, the numbers are going significantly down—until you slow down and ask the question. What

they are really saying in this report is: We are moving people across the border faster than we used to. They don't spend as much time at the border as they used to. They are now in the interior of the country.

Why do I say that? Because the information came out, strikingly enough, the day after this was released, the update of what was happening on the border in May.

In March of this year, with the highest number of interdictions that we have had in 20 years—in March of this year—173,000-plus; only to be beaten in April by the highest in 20 years with 178,000-plus; only to be beaten, now we know, in May with 180,000-plus. The surge continues to accelerate while the administration puts out their notice saying: We are getting so much more efficient at moving people from the border into the interior of the country.

This is why President Giammattei of Guatemala spoke to the administration this week in a public setting, strikingly enough, saying: You are giving mixed signals to the people of Central America. For the Vice President to come to Guatemala and say "Don't come; don't come" but then for the administration to say "But if you do come, we are a lot faster getting you into the country than we used to be," this is the mixed-signal problem. It is why coyotes continue to be able to move record numbers of people through Central America into the interior of the country.

It is not just from Central America. We have had this year a more than 400 percent increase in migration from nations outside of the Northern Triangle in Mexico because the coyotes are learning—we know how to move people, and the world is seeing that if you want to be able to come to America illegally, now is the time to do it.

So if you go back to March, we had all these individuals who were coming from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Now there is a 400-percent increase of people from outside of those areas who are coming into those same trafficking networks moving into the United States.

We have now had this year 23,000, that we know of, individuals who, when they were brought across the border under the new Biden proposal to be more efficient at moving people across the border, that if the line was too long to be processed at the border, they would be released into the United States and told: Whatever city you go to, turn yourself in to ICE and start what is called a notice to appear process to be able to request asylum, literally. This has never happened under any administration. No administration has done this. If the line is too long at the border when you are crossing illegally and it backs up there to be able to check in with the Border Patrol or CBP, then they are released into the country. As we know of, by the end of March—we don't know the numbers yet for April and May, but by the end of

March, 23,242 people had been just released and told "Turn yourself in, whatever city you get to."

Now, I have asked the question: How many people have actually turned themselves in? How many people have actually done that? The latest number that we have that have actually checked in is about 1,800 people. Quite frankly, I was surprised it was that high. That is almost 8 percent of the people who have actually turned themselves in when they arrived at the city, meaning 92 percent of the people who were released at the border, we have no idea where they are anywhere in the country—92 percent. This is not what Americans expected.

Worse still, I have asked the basic question: What is happening with ICE? Why should I ask that question about interior enforcement in the United States? Because the first week President Biden was in office, he announced a moratorium on any deportations, even deportations that a Federal court has ordered removed. He was going to do no deportations at all. He was going to stop for 100 days.

A Federal court actually interceded in that and responded: If a Federal court has ordered what is called a final order of removal, they have to be removed. The Biden administration responded with: OK, we will do that. We will remove people if there is a final order of removal.

So I asked the simple question: What has happened since then? Here is what has happened since then. The Biden administration has changed the policy for ICE into a policy we have never done as a country. If an individual is going to be removed by ICE now, they have to contact regional leadership and ask permission to be able to remove that person. Regional leadership will go through a whole set of the criteria established by the Biden administration, and if they don't qualify, they cannot be removed regardless of their status.

What has happened since then? Last month, there were only 3,000 people in the country removed—3,000. That is the lowest number we have had on our records. To give you an example of this, we have 6,000 ICE agents in the country yet only 3,000 deportations in the country in a month. We are on record to be at a number we have never experienced before as a country for deportations of any President because we are not enforcing the law.

Not only do we have record numbers coming across the border, we have a record low number of deportations that are happening. What do I mean by that? Well, we contacted the ICE Council, and we asked specifically: What does it mean when we learn that people are not being deported? Who is not being deported?

When I talked to ICE leadership 2 weeks ago, I asked very direct, specific questions: Are all criminal aliens being deported? Their answer back to me was, no, we are making a case-by-case decision on criminal aliens.